

## From the Editor

**WHEN** some 200 Army officers became the unknowing victims of identity theft, e-commerce took on a much different look. CID author Sandy Goss lists steps victims should take, as well as measures available to lessen the likelihood of being victimized in the first place.

**SSG John Valceanu** presents the emerging face of military operations in urban terrain in this month's cover story. Meantime, **Steve Harding** travels to Italy for a joint U.S.-Italian noncombatant evacuation operation, and also covers the activation of the famed 173rd Airborne Brigade — the first major Army unit to serve in Vietnam.

**Former Soldiers** staff member **MSG Larry Lane** takes us along on an Army force-on-force training exercise using German farms and small towns as the backdrop — the first such venture in more than a decade.

**And** with the world's attention focused on the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Army athletes are helping to carry the U.S. flag "down under" — we offer a special preview by **Soldiers'** summer intern, **Sarah McCoy**.

*Ray Whitledge*

## More on Uniforms

**I ENJOYED** the article on the history of the U.S. Army uniform in your July issue. I believe, however, there was an error with regard to trouser striping. The trouser striping authorized in 1832 was in the branch color (Infantry — white; Artillery — scarlet; and Dragoons — yellow) for the combat arms. What happened in 1851 was that the branch colors were changed for the Infantry (from white to blue), Dragoons (yellow to orange), and Regiment of Mounted Riflemen (black piped gold to green).

*William T. Barrante  
Watertown, Conn.*

**NOT** to be picky, but shouldn't we be? In July's "Uniform Traditions" poster, the Medical Corps major is wearing the ribbon to her Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal upside down. The center stripes are "blue-white-red" on the medal's suspension ribbon; hers appears as "red-white-blue." As a former OBC platoon trainer, I used to love catching my prior-service lieutenants on this one! I hope the chemical officer's ribbon is being worn correctly — his picture is a little too grainy for me to verify. He probably remembers me as a TAC officer. And before the complaints roll in, yes, I have better things to do!

*MAJ David Molaison  
Fort Lewis, Wash.*

**THANK** you for the correction. Another reader also reminded that the AFEM is one of three medals in current use that cannot be reversed and still be worn correctly, the other two being the Army of Occupation Medal and the new Kosovo Campaign Medal (see article in July "Briefings"). Also, the AFEM is correctly displayed on the poster insert to this year's

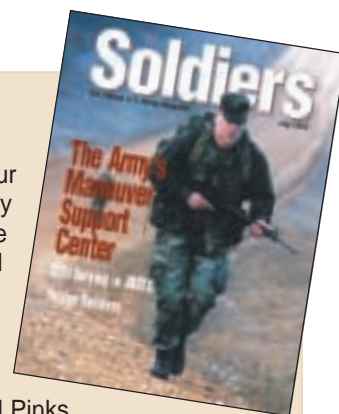
## Wearing Army Traditions

**ALTHOUGH** I really enjoyed your July article on the history of Army uniforms, you didn't make me like today's uniforms any better. I still have to agree with the recent article in the Army Times that discussed how many soldiers do not like their current uniforms, but prefer the older khaki's, and Pinks and Greens. Interesting how, on the last page of the Army Times article, all of the uniforms shown were of the khaki or light OD green/khaki color. Now those were classy uniforms!

It was a nice try to convince me that the Class A's could not be matched in 1832 because generals couldn't afford to find a match of coat and trousers (at their pay grade, they couldn't afford a bolt of cloth big enough to make their whole uniform?). Personally, I liked the story I heard about the Cavalry. Their jackets did not fade because they rolled them up and sat on them as they rode, so their pants faded in the sun, but their jackets did not. Now, that was more romantic than not being able to match a bolt of cloth!

I wish I were on a board selecting the future Class A's because today's uniforms have lost their class! Let's go back to khaki!

*LTC Jeanette McMahon  
via e-mail*



edition of **The Soldiers Almanac**.

## Challenging Claim

**THE** back cover of the July **Soldiers** states the 54th Massachusetts was the first black unit to engage in battle. That is incorrect. On July 16, 1863, the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry was a part of the Union forces engaging Confederates at Honey Springs in Indian Territory (Oklahoma). That unit is credited with firing a volley into the center of a Confederate charge that more or less broke up the Confederate forces. The Confederates were superior in numbers (nearly two to one), but were not very well disciplined and after the volley fire that

broke the center, left the field of battle. Nothing against the 54th, the movie about them got me interested in the Civil War again, but we need to ensure credit is given where due. Although the war in the west was very remote, events also occurred here and they should not be overlooked.

*SSG James E. Williams, USAR  
University of Oklahoma  
via e-mail*

## Black Beaches

**THE** two-page spread in the July issue is terrific and does a great job of promoting one of the service's great recreation facilities and Hawaii. However, the caption for the picture on the left side of page 46 is misleading if people are not famil-

LTC Michael F. Tanigawa (Ret.)  
via e-mail

CSM Albert D. Newton  
Fort Stewart, Ga.

*CW2 Joseph Deblois  
Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo*

## Uniform of the Future?

SGT G. E. Whitley  
via e-mail

AS an artilleryman, I was curious when I read MAJ John Dacey's letter in your July Feedback about the soldier standing directly behind the recoiling cannon tube on the back cover of the May issue. I grabbed the issue and noticed that the soldier is actually standing to the

*SGT Adam M. Durand  
New Orleans, La.*

GM3 Giovannie G.Ortiz  
San Juan, P.R.

**Soldiers** is for soldiers and DA civilians. We invite readers' views. Stay under 150 words — a post card will do — and include your name, rank and address. We'll withhold your name if you desire and may condense your views because of space. We can't publish or answer every one, but we'll use representative views. Write to: **Feedback, Soldiers, 9325 Gunston Road, Ste. S108, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060-5581, or e-mail: [soldiers@belvoir.army.mil](mailto:soldiers@belvoir.army.mil).**

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